Mannfacture of inferior types of T.V. sets

1329. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports of activities of some dealers engaged in supplying inferior types of T.V. sets under well known brands and deceiving the customers; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to check the activities of such dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government have seen Press report alleging spurious manufacture of TV sets being sold under well-known brand names and cheating the innocent consumers.

(b) Secretary, Department of Electronics, has discussed this with the Representatives of the Indian Television Manufacturers Association (ITMA) and has requested them to indicate specific cases. These will then be taken up with appropriate authorities, including the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration, for necessary action.

Loss of agriculture and Forest land due to degradation

1330. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated areas of wasteland in the various parts of the country State-wise and how much on an average, good agriculture and forest land are lost annually due to degradation;

(b) what are the main factors contributing to the degradation of land resources in the country; and

(c) what are the details of the programmes undertaken by Government to save the land resources from degradation during the last three years and the results achieved and the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the said programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There is no comprehensive survey for the country as a whole to provide a precise assessment of wastelands. According to information given in some reports, including that of the National Commission of Agriculture (1976), an overall estimate is that an area of about 175 million hectares in the country is affected by the problem of soil erosion and land degradation. The State-wise break up of 129.58 million hectares as furnished by the Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) is attached at Statement-I (*See* below).

As regards forest land, according to the data collected by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) from Landsat Imagery, the area with more than 10 per cent tree cover declined from 55 million to 46 million hectares between 1972—75 and 1980—82. This shows that the annual rate of loss of forest cover is about 1.5 million hectares.

There is no firm data regarding loss of good agricultural land due to degradation.

(b) Land degradation occurs due to a variety of causes like unscientific management of land and water resources, poor drainage, unplanned-road building, seepage from large canal projects, causing waterlogging and salinity. A very low level of stall feeding leads to overgrazing and consequent degradation of land.

(c) The Government of India set up in 1985 a National Landuse and Wastelands Development Council with two separate bodies under it—the Na-

tional Landuse and Conservation Board and the National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB). The former board will concern itself with drawing up the national policy and perspective plan for conservation and management and development of land resources of the country. The principal aim of the latter board shall be to bring wastelands in the country under productive use through a massive programme of afforestation and tree planting by formulation of national policies, perspective plans and programmes. A copy of the Action Plan drawn by the National Wastelands Development Board is placed on the Table of the House as Statement-II. (*See* below). Besides, Social and Farm Forestry Schemes, there are schemes under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The expenditure incurred on and results achieved in all these schemes *during the last three years before the* establishment of NWDB is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Statement I

Estimates of Wastelands in India

(Hectares in Lacs)

States/UTs.	Non-Forest Degraded Area*	Forest Degraded Area**	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	76.82	37.34	114.16
[illegible]	9.35	7.95	17.30
[illegible]	38.96	15.62	54.58
Gujarat	71.53	6.83	78.36
Haryana	24.02	0.74	24.78
Himachal Pradesh	14.24	5.34	19.58
Jammu & Kashmir	5.31	10.34	15.65
Karnataka	71.22	20.43	91.65
Kerala	10.53	2.26	12.79
Madhya Pradesh	129.47	71.95	201.42
Maharashtra	115.60	28.41	144.01
Manipur	0.14	14.24	14.38
Meghalaya	8.15	10.03	19.18
Nagaland	5.08	8.78	13.86

* Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi-1984.

** Barren area notified as forests not included in the above figures.

1	2	3	4
Orissa	31.57	32.27	63.84
Punjab	11.51	0.79	12.30
Rajasthan	180.01	19.33	199.34
Sikkim	1.31	1.50	2.81
Tamil Nadu	33.92	10.09	44.01
Tripura	1.08	8.65	9.73
Uttar Pradesh	66.35	14.26	80.61
West Bengal	21.77	3.59	25.36
UTs.	8.89	27.15	36.04
TOTAL	936.91	358.89	1295.80

Statement-II

The Action Plan drawn up by the National Wastelands Development Board and accepted by the State/U.T. Governments for implementation has the following key elements:—

1. *Identification of Wastelands*: Each State/U.T. Government has been requested to identify wastelands in their territory whether they be in forest areas, revenue/common lands or degraded farm lands.

2. *People's Involvement*: This will be ensured by the following measures:—

(a) *Decentralised Nurseries*: People's nurseries i.e. kisans. schools, women, youth groups, voluntary agencies. etc., will be motivated to meet the increased demand of seedlings.

(b) *Farm Forestry*: Farmers will be motivated to take up tree farming on their marginal lands and planting on their field bunds. A rational policy in regard to distribution of seedlings should be evolved.

(c) *Tree Growers' Cooperatives*: Tree Growers' cooperatives should be organised with the involvement of farmers in raising and distribution of seedlings and in tree plantations.

(d) *Voluntary Agencies*: The grass-roots agencies, Mahila Mandals. Youth groups would also be motivated in nursery raising and tree plantations.

(e) *Tree Pattas*: Strips of land along roads, rails, canals, etc.. and other degraded land should be given to the rural poor, with usufruct rights on the trees planted by them on such lands.

3. *Nodal Agency*: The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to identify a single nodal agency for ensuring an integrated approach for the implementation of the programme which is being executed by different agencies, official and otherwise.

4. *Seed*: The States/U.Ts. have been requestel to extend the scope of operation of the existing State Seed Corporations to include the production and supply of fodder. grass and legume seeds to farmers on commercial basis.

5. *Leasing of Lands*: The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to prepare guidelines for leasing of forest and non-forest wastelands for afforestation to the rural poor.

6. *Forest based industries* must be encouraged to afforest wastelands to produce the raw material needed by them. Industries must also be enthused to raise tree cover on wastelands with a view to provide employment to the rural poor as well as to enable them to grow trees on a remunerative basis. The State Governments have been requested to draw up guidelines for the lease of wastelands to industries in this behalf.

7. *Urban Fuelwood and Green Belts*: The State/U.Ts. have been requested to ensure that towns and cities have green belts of fuelwood and fodder plantations to cater to the urban fuelwood and fodder needs.

8. *Degraded Forest areas*: States have been requested to identify degraded forest lands and to reforest them with fuelwood and fodder species.

9. *Forest Development Corporations*: The Forest Development Corporations should obtain wastelands on lease from the Governments for raising fuelwood and fodder planations.

10. *Government Departments*: Government Departments, public sector undertakings and other bodies/institutions having substantial areas of unutilised lands must bring such land under tree cover.

11. *Media and Communication*: A massive publicity campaign through the traditional media of folk art and culture, radio, television and other audio-visual aids should be undertaken to create awareness among the masses.

12. *Monitoring and Evaluation*: The State/U.T. Governments should evolve appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure qualitative implementation of the programme.

UN response to the Call of Indian Deegate to defuse Libyan Situation

1331. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what has been the response of the UN to the call given by the Indian delegate at the UN Security Council on April 16, 1986 for immediate steps to defuse the situation arising from US bombing of Libya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The Non-aligned Resolution introduced in the UN Security Council in order to defuse the situation arising from the US action secured the requisite majority but could not be adopted because of the exercise of veto by USA, Britain and France. The UN Secretary General has, however, assured us that he was doing and indeed would continue to do all he could to defuse the situation.

Response of the UN and the World countries to NAM call to condemn US Bombing of Libya

1332. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the response of the UN and US, UK, France, West Germany and other Western countries to the call given by the NAM member countries at the ministerial meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-aligned countries on April 16, 1986, to condemn US bombing of Libya and to take positive and immediate steps to restore peace in the region; and

(b) what has been the response of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact powers to the said call?